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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 80102561.0

51 Int. Cl.³: **G 06 F 3/037**

22 Date of filing: 09.05.80

30 Priority: 27.07.79 GB 7926203

43 Date of publication of application:
04.02.81 Bulletin 81/5

84 Designated Contracting States:
CH DE FR GB IT LI NL SE

71 Applicant: International Business Machines Corporation

Armonk, N.Y. 10504(US)

72 Inventor: Warwick, William Arthur
'Flinders' 24 Downs Road
South Wonston Winchester Hampshire(GB)

74 Representative: Appleton, John Edward
IBM United Kingdom Patent Operations Hursley Park
Winchester Hants, SO21 2JN(GB)

64 Light pen.

57 A light pen for detecting radiation from a display screen has a tubular body with a conical tip (1). The tip which fastens into the pen body includes an opaque bush (4) which has a bore (5) having a precisely determined diameter for transmitting light from an aperture in the tip to a light sensing device mounted in the body of the pen. The bore or interior surface of the bush has a surface formed to eliminate internal reflection.

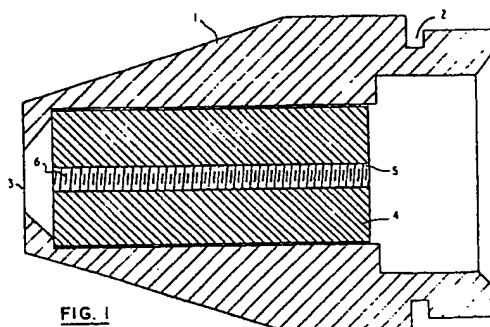


FIG. 1

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LIGHT PEN

This invention relates to light pens of the type that are used in conjunction with interactive display devices.

Interactive display devices such as the IBM 3270 terminal system or the IBM 3250 Display System (IBM is a Registered Trade Mark) have two main methods for the user to communicate with the system. The first is by means of a keyboard which is connected directly to the controlling processor of the system, the second is a light pen with which the user can indicate a particular piece of data on the screen, or a part of the screen to which some processing action is required to be taken. Depending upon the type of display used the controlling processor determines the information imparted by the position of the light pen by detecting where the beam of a cathode ray tube, or similar device, is when the light pen senses light at the display screen.

To this end light pens in the past have used optical light collecting devices which have a restricted angle of view. These optical light collecting devices direct light onto a light sensing device, such as a photodetector which changes the received light pulses into electrical signals.

Examples of the optical light collecting devices used in previous light pens are found in the following publications.

IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin (TDB) Vol. 12, No. 6, November 1969, p 800. 'Optical Funnel for Light Pen' by R G Gray.

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IBM TDB Vol 13, No. 2, July 1970, p 502. 'Computer Light Pen' by J C Greeson Jr.

IBM TDB Vol. 15, No. 5, October 1972, p 1474. 'Fibre Optic Probe Actuate Switch' by R B Johnson.

The above publication show the use of pens with optical systems comprising respectively a light pipe (Gray), a lens system (Greeson) and a fibre optic bundle (Johnson). The most common device in present use is that used with the IBM 3278 display unit. This pen uses a conical light pipe having a convex lens formed on the base of the cone.

It has been found, however, that as the density of information displayed on a screen increases, and as the speed of the scan of the beams of cathode ray tubes increase, the accuracy, with which the processor determines the position of the light pen on the face of a screen, drops. It has become difficult to develop an optical system which has a sufficient narrow angle of view so that it excludes light from adjacent points on a screen without the system becoming very costly and cumbersome to use.

One of the main difficulties encountered in using optical systems in light pens is achieving similar light collecting characteristics for a batch of light pens to be used on a single display system. A single display controller controls many display units each with its own light pen. Because the characteristic between pens can vary greatly the processor has to perform complicated routines to compensate which makes the system very inefficient.

According to the present invention there is provided a light pen for detecting radiation from a display screen comprising a tubular body having a conical tip that has, an aperture for receiving light, means to transmit light from the aperture to a light sensing device mounted in the body, said light sensing device including means to convert light signals to electrical signals, characterised in that the means to transmit light from the aperture in the tip to the light sensing device is a bush of an opaque or opaquely coloured material having a hole along its centre axis and having an internal surface formed such as to eliminate internal reflection.

In one embodiment of the invention the bush is in the form of a cylinder with a centre bore which has a tapped screw thread substantially along its entire length.

In a further embodiment of the invention the bush is in the form of a hollow cone moulded such that the internal surface is serrated to prevent internal reflection.

A preferred material for the bush is a black plastic or nylon, although other opaque or coated substances can be used.

In order that the invention may be fully understood it will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 shows an enlarged cross section of the tip of a light pen embodying the present invention;

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Figure 2 shows a cross section of an alternative bush for use in a light pen embodying the present invention.

Referring now more particularly to Figure 1 there is shown the tip of the body of a light pen. The main tubular body of the light pen is not shown, as its construction does not form any part of the present invention it is usually constructed of brushed aluminium. The component parts of the pen include a light sensing device mounted in the body of the pen and connected to an amplifier which amplifies the electrical signals received from the light sensing device. Cable connections from the amplifier are taken from the end of the tubular body and connected to the controlling processor of the interactive display system.

The tip of the body comprises a portion 1 which may be an extension of the main body of the pen or a separate piece that clips or screws into the body by a fastening device shown schematically at 2. The portion 1 may be constructed of a black plastic material. The tip has an aperture 3 which in the preferred embodiment is 2.5 mm in diameter. The inside of the tip is formed to receive a black nylon bush 4 which in the present embodiment is 15 mm in length with a diameter of 5 mm. The bush 4 has a bore 5 drilled along its centre axis having a diameter of 1.9 mm. The bore 5 is tapped with a screw thread shown schematically at 6. It has been found that it is preferable to have the thread 6 extending the full length of the bush 4 as this then ensures only light that enters the aperture 3 and bore 5 parallel to the axis of the pen reaches the sensing device.

The advantage achieved by using a non-optical system as shown in Figure 1 is that the brushes 4 can be manufactured

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to have a consistent bore diameter. This means that pens using such devices will show more consistent characteristics in light collection than can be achieved with purely optical systems. The bush is also cheap to manufacture compared with an optical lens system.

Optical systems described in the prior art above provide a certain amount of gain to the light detected at their tips. This feature is not found in the present invention and to compensate a higher gain electrical amplifier can be used in the connection with the light sensing device.

Figure 2 shows an alternative form of bush moulded in the shape of a hollow cone 7 having a series of serrations 8 which eliminate internal reflection. A sensing device 9 is shown schematically mounted at the base of the cone.

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WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. A light pen for detecting radiation from a display screen comprising a tubular body having a conical tip (1) that has an aperture (3) to receive light at one end, means (4) to transmit light from the aperture to a light sensing device mounted in the body, said light sensing device including means to convert light signals to electrical signals, characterised in that the means (4) to transmit light from the aperture in the tip to the light sensing device is a bush of an opaque or opaquely coloured material having a hole along its centre axis and having an internal surface formed such as to eliminate internal reflection.
2. A light pen as claimed in claim 1 in which said bush (4) is a cylinder having a screw thread tapped along substantially the entire length of the hole.
3. A light pen as claimed in claim 1 in which the bush is a hollow cone (7) having its interior surface formed with a series of serrations (8).
4. A light pen as claimed in any one of claims 1, 2 or 3 in which the bush (4, 7) is formed of a black plastic or nylon material.

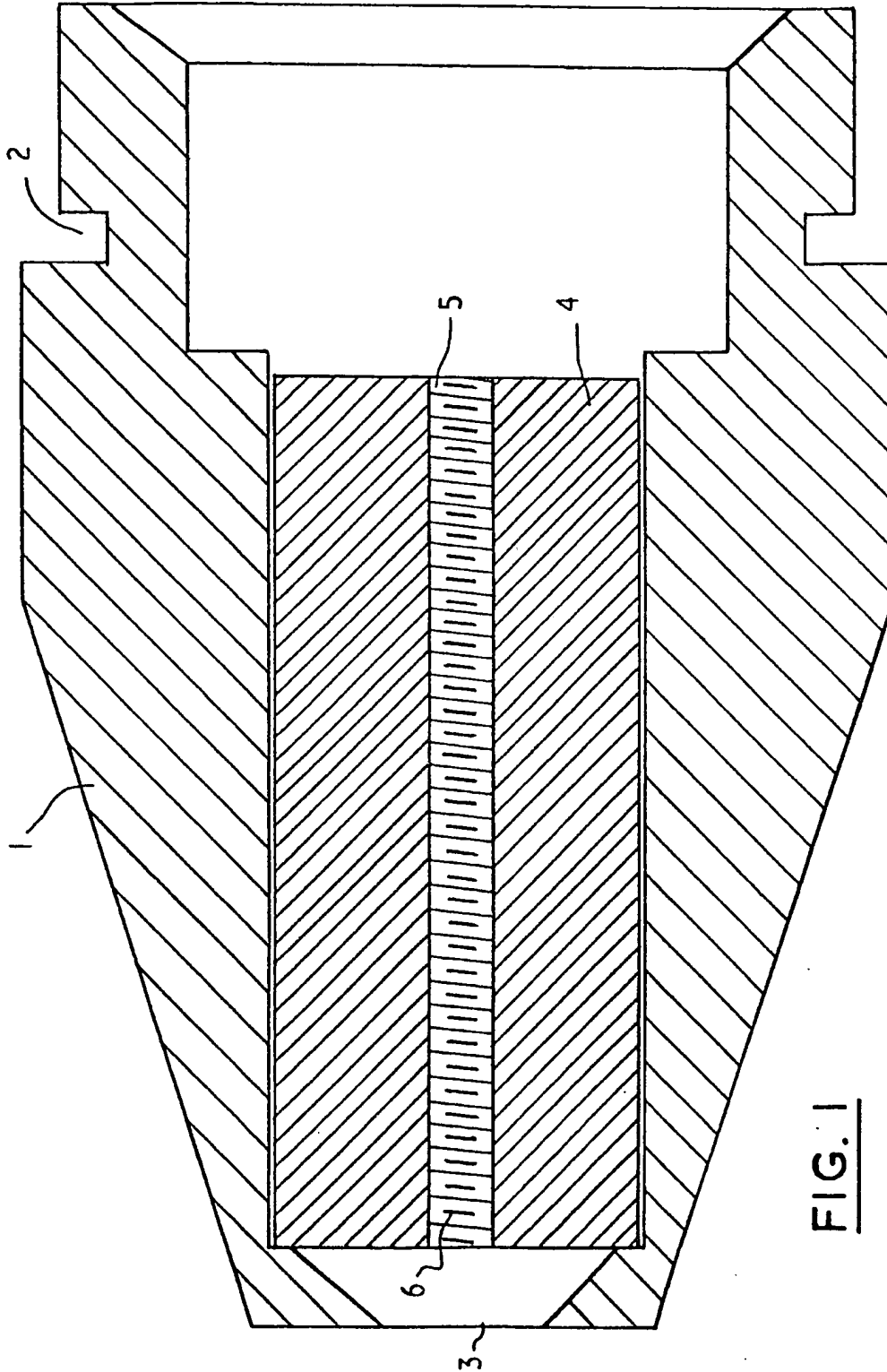


FIG. 1

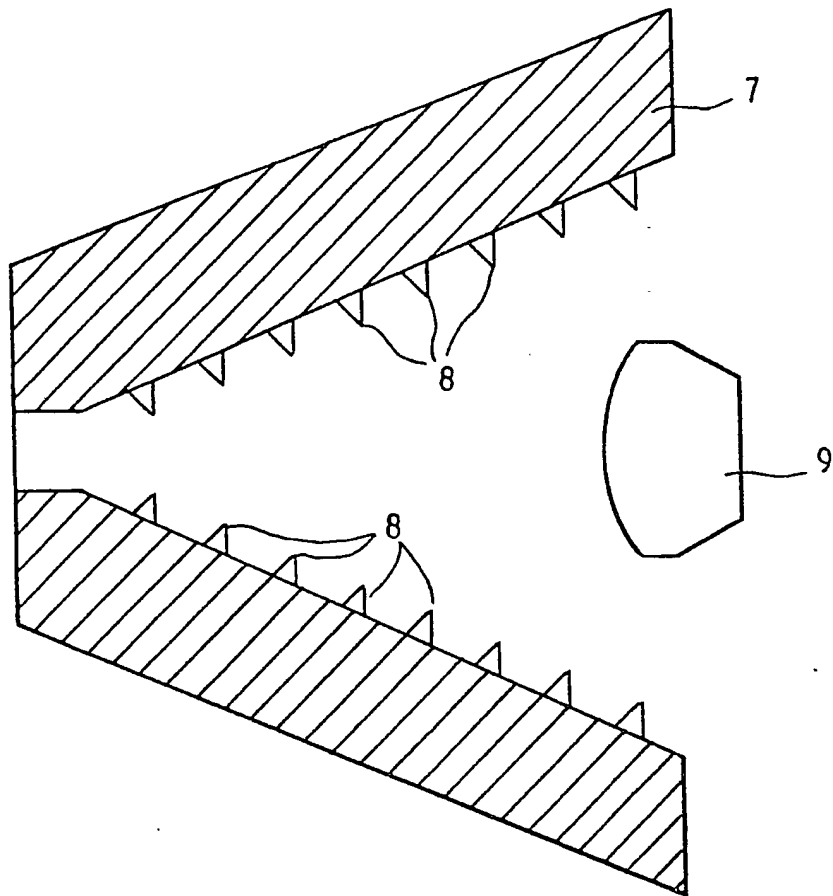


FIG 2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application number

EP 80 10 2561

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
	<p><u>DE - A - 2 413 488</u> (SIEMENS)</p> <p>* Page 5, lines 1-5; page 14; claim 17; figure 1 *</p> <p>--</p> <p>ELEKTRONIK, vol. 1, 1975, Munich, DE, G. GIDL: "Digitale-Positionierung auf dem Bildschirm", pages 61-67</p> <p>* Page 63 "Lichtgreiffel" *</p> <p>--</p>	1	G 06 F 3/037
A	<p><u>US - A - 3 586 861</u> (R.E. WERNIKOFF)</p> <p>* Column 1, lines 50-60 *</p> <p>--</p>	1	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.)
D	<p>IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 12, no. 6, November 1969, New York, US, R.G. GRAY: "Optical funnel for light pen", page 800</p> <p>* The whole document *</p> <p>--</p>	1	G 06 F 3/037
D	<p>IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 13, no. 2, July 1970, New York, US, J.C. GREESON: "Computer light pen" page 502</p> <p>* The whole document *</p> <p>--</p>	1	CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS
D	<p>IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol. 15, no. 5, October 1972, New York, US, R.B. JOHNSON: "Fiberoptic probe actuate switch", page 1474</p> <p>./.</p>	1	<p>X: particularly relevant</p> <p>A: technological background</p> <p>O: non-written disclosure</p> <p>P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E: conflicting application</p> <p>D: document cited in the application</p> <p>L: citation for other reasons</p>
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p>			<p>&: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
The Hague		30-10-1980	LACROIX

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl. ³)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
	<p>* The whole document *</p> <p>--</p> <p><u>US - A - 1 546 264 (W. STORY)</u></p> <p>* Column 1, lines 9-18; column 3, lines 2-29 *</p> <p>----</p>	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. ³)